AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a replacement claim set:

1. (currently amended) A method for execution by one or more processors for pricing access to e-content comprising:

transmitting the e-content selected from e-books, e-videos, e-movies, e-documents, e-television and combinations thereof over a network to a computer for listening, viewing or combinations thereof along with a usage tracker for performing a step of tracking one or more usage characteristics;

tracking one or more usage characteristics of an individual's access to e-content, wherein the one or more usage characteristics are selected from the group consisting of quantity of e-content accessed, quantity of time spent accessing the e-content, nature of the e-content, and combinations thereof;

accepting return of the e-content from the computer along with the one or more usage characteristics; and

charging the individual a price that is determined as a predetermined function of the one or more usage characteristics.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

establishing a usage profile for the individual;

storing in the usage profile the one or more usage characteristics tracked during a first session; and

updating the usage profile to reflect the one or more usage characteristics tracked during a subsequent session.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of updating the usage profile includes accumulating the one or more usage characteristics over a plurality of sessions.

2

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the price is determined as a predetermined function of the one or more usage characteristics of the current session, the one or more accumulated usage characteristics, or a combination thereof.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined function is a non-linear function.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1, wherein the step of accepting return includes receiving the entire e-content.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1, wherein the step of accepting return includes deleting the e-content from the individual's computer.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1, further comprising: wherein the step of accepting return includes
    determining whether any copies of the transmitted e-content were made.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
    transmitting the e-content to a computer along with a usage tracker for performing the step of tracking one or more usage characteristics; and
    periodically receiving messages from the usage tracker indicating a change in the one or more usage characteristics.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A computer system for pricing access to e-content comprising:

3

<u>transmitting means for transmitting the e-content selected from e-books, e-videos, e-movies, e-documents, e-television and combinations thereof over a network to a computer along with a usage tracker for performing a step of tracking one or more usage characteristics;</u>

tracking means for tracking one or more usage characteristics of an individual's access to e-content, wherein the one or more usage characteristics are selected from the group consisting of quantity of e-content accessed, quantity of time spent accessing the e-content, nature of the e-content, and combinations thereof;

<u>accepting means for accepting return of the e-content from the computer along with the one or more usage characteristics;</u> and

charging means for charging the individual a price that is determined as a predetermined function of the one or more usage characteristics.

13. (original) The system of claim 12, further comprising:

establishing means for establishing a usage profile for the individual;

storing means for storing in the usage profile the one or more usage characteristics tracked during a first session; and

updating means for updating the usage profile to reflect the one or more usage characteristics tracked during a subsequent session.

14. (original) The system of claim 13, wherein the updating means includes accumulating means for accumulating the one or more usage characteristics over a plurality of sessions.

15. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein the price is determined as a predetermined function of the one or more usage characteristics of the current session, the one or more accumulated usage characteristics, or a combination thereof.

16. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein the predetermined function is a non-linear function.

17. (cancelled)

4

18. (currently amended) The system of claim [[17]] 12, wherein the accepting means includes receiving means for receiving the entire e-content.

19. (currently amended) The system of claim [[17]] 12, wherein the accepting means includes deleting means for deleting the e-content from the individual's computer.

20. (currently amended) The system of claim [[17]] 12, further comprising: wherein the accepting means includes

determining means for determining whether any copies of the transmitted e-content were made.

21. (currently amended) The system of claim 12, further comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting the e-content to a computer along with a usage tracker having tracking means for tracking one or more usage characteristics; and

receiving means for receiving messages from the usage tracker indicating a change in the one or more usage characteristics.

22. (currently amended) A computer program product for execution using one or more processors including instructions embodied on a computer readable medium, the instructions comprising:

transmitting instructions for transmitting the e-content selected from e-books, e-videos, e-movies, e-documents, e-television and combinations thereof over a network to a computer along with a usage tracker for performing a step of tracking one or more usage characteristics;

tracking instructions for tracking one or more usage characteristics of an individual's access to e-content, wherein the one or more usage characteristics are selected from the group consisting of quantity of e-content accessed, quantity of time spent accessing the e-content, nature of the e-content, and combinations thereof;

accepting instructions for accepting return of the e-content from the computer along with the one or more usage characteristics; and

charging instructions for charging the individual a price that is determined as a predetermined function of the one or more usage characteristics.

23. (original) The computer program product of claim 22, further comprising:

establishing instructions for establishing a usage profile for the individual;

storing instructions for storing in the usage profile the one or more usage characteristics tracked during a first session; and

updating instructions for updating the usage profile to reflect the one or more usage characteristics tracked during a subsequent session.

24. (original) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the updating instructions include accumulating instructions for accumulating the one or more usage characteristics over a plurality of sessions.

25. (original) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the price is determined as a predetermined function of the one or more usage characteristics of the current session, the one or more accumulated usage characteristics, or a combination thereof.

26. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the predetermined function is a non-linear function.

27. (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim [[27]] 22, wherein the accepting instructions include receiving instructions for receiving the entire e-content.

29. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim [[27]] 22, further comprising: ~~wherein the accepting instructions includes~~

deleting instructions for deleting the e-content from the individual's computer.

30. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim [[27]] 22, wherein the accepting instructions include determining instructions for determining whether any copies of the transmitted e-content were made.

31. (cancelled)

32. (original) A computer implemented method for providing access to e-content on a server, comprising:

transmitting e-content from the server to a client computing device along with an embedded usage tracking program;

receiving a usage report from the usage tracking program including one or more characteristic of the client's access to the e-content;

determining whether the client's access to the e-content exceeds an expiration setpoint; and

upon a determination of expiration, initiating renewal of the e-content expiration setpoint deleting the e-content from the client computing device.

33. (cancelled)

7